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CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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NOTE VERBALE DATED 2 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF ARGENTINA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT EXPRESSING ITS FIRM SUPPORT FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

The Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic to the international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to request it to distribute the following text as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

"For some years the signing of a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty has been a fundamental objective of the international community in order to effectively end the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

"The Argentine Republic has played an active role in the negotiation of this treaty because it is convinced that the conclusion of the treaty will help to prevent such proliferation.

"In this context, the Argentine Republic wishes to express its firm support for the text of the treaty (CD/NTB/WP.330/Rev.1) presented by the Chairman of the Conference on Disarmament's Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban, Ambassador Jaap Ramaker of the Netherlands, on 28 June 1996.

"The Argentine Republic now sees a definite possibility that the negotiations on the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty will be concluded during 1996. This demands a genuine political will and a firm commitment by all the members of the international community.

"In this context, we express our confidence in the way the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee has been conducting the negotiations and reiterate our confidence that, if it proves necessary, he will carry out the appropriate consultations with a view to the forwarding of the treaty by the Conference on Disarmament to the fifty-first United Nations General Assembly.

"The conclusion of this treaty, which will follow the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), achieved during 1995, will constitute a fundamental step in the implementation of the programme of action contained in decision No. 2 adopted by the NPT Review and Extension Conference.

"It will also be an event that will appreciably bolster confidence because it strengthens the growing conviction of the futility of nuclear weapons in ensuring the security of nations, and will facilitate work on the future agenda and the negotiation of other multilateral measures in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control."